

# House Concurrent Resolution No. 31

## 92<sup>ND</sup> GENERAL ASSEMBLY

2217L.011

1       **Whereas**, the last comprehensive study of Missouri's floodplains, entitled  
2 "Missouri's Swamp and Overflowed Lands and Their Reclamation" was conducted by the  
3 General Assembly in 1913; and  
4

5       **Whereas**, the United States Army Corps of Engineers were given directions to  
6 construct flood control structures, such as dams, reservoirs, and levees, on the Mississippi,  
7 Missouri, and other rivers following flood events in the 1930's, however, many of these  
8 structures were not designed to protect against the largest floods with recurrence intervals of  
9 more than 100 years; and  
10

11       **Whereas**, many rivers in Missouri have been modified in ways that may affect the  
12 severity and duration of flood events; and  
13

14       **Whereas**, between 1993 and 1995, Missouri received eight Presidential  
15 Declarations of Flooding that exceeded local and state response capabilities, with the flood of  
16 1993 causing an estimated \$3 billion dollars in damages in Missouri alone and ruining more  
17 cropland, destroying more residences, businesses, public facilities, and transportation facilities,  
18 and costing taxpayers more money than any other flood in the state's long history of flooding;  
19 and  
20

21       **Whereas**, while floodplains can provide significant fertile agricultural land,  
22 opportunities for economic development, recreational opportunities, and important wildlife  
23 habitat, achieving a balance among these beneficial multiple use of floodplains can best be  
24 obtained through integrated floodplain management; and  
25

26       **Whereas**, proper floodplain management cannot be planned without an accurate  
27 assessment of current conditions:  
28

29       **Now, therefore, be it resolved** that the members of the House of  
30 Representatives of the Ninety-second General Assembly, First Regular Session, the Senate  
31 concurring therein, hereby authorize the Joint Committee on Wetlands, established in Section  
32 21.475, RSMo, to undertake a comprehensive study to assess Missouri's floodplains, including  
33 current land use patterns, trends in development and levee construction, impacts of land use and  
34 development on flooding frequencies, public and private costs, and the costs and benefits of  
35 floodplain management.